

Featuring
THE **BLACK HOOD**
TOP-NOTCH

NO. 23 JAN.

comics 10c



also THE
WIZARD
with ROY, the SUPER-BOY

**WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM**

FRAIL...WEAK...UNDEVELOPED? TRY THIS QUICK EASY WAY TO GET BIG HUSKY HANDSOME MUSCLES!

**New 37 Feature Body Builder Gets
Amazing Results for Thousands.**

Used by Champs. Costs Little!

**With the big HERCULES
EXERCISER OUTFIT you
can set up a gym right
at home. Enough equip-
ment to exercise every
muscle in the body!**



If you're frail, weak, undeveloped and not rugged enough to mix it up with the big fellows, start doing something about it today! Don't forget, the fellow with the husky, muscular, athletic build needn't take back talk from anybody. He knows how to handle himself and because he is well trained, has more confidence in his ability to tackle anything that comes along. So don't be a "sissy" or a "sneak." Start getting in shape with the HERCULES MUSCLE BUILDING TRAINING OUTFIT now.

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET!

With the complete HERCULES TRAINING OUTFIT you get everything needed to whip yourself into superb physical condition and at the same time learn the inside tricks of muscular development.

First of all you get the big powerful 10-CABLE EXERCISER that is adjustable to 200 pounds resistance. These adjustable cables allow graduated and regulated muscular development. You can start with but 1 or 5 cables and gradually add on more as you feel yourself getting stronger. In addition you get real big and tough 10-CABLE HANDLES that fit the hand comfortably and last a lifetime. Even the cables themselves are woven in tough extra-heavy strands to give long life.

For ripping back and shoulder muscles, and flat wash-board stomach muscles, the special WALL EXERCISER equipment is just what you need. The same type of equipment used by champ fighters who must protect the stomach with layers of firm solid muscle. You'll like the way the Wall Exerciser handles. Now it gives those back muscles a real work-out. If you like boxing, you'll get a big kick out of the way the SHADOW BOXER helps put power in your punches. A regulation SKIP ROPE is also supplied, a necessary part of every boxer's training equipment.

With the ROWING MACHINE attachments you also help the stomach muscles as well as the biceps and shoulder muscles. In each HERCULES OUTFIT is also included the famous adjustable HEAD AND FOOT HARNESS. This was specially designed to develop strong powerful necks. Even skinny, scrawny necks show amazing response to this exercise. Used as a foot harness, this helps build strong calves and ankles.

You'll also be equipped with the heavy-duty HAND GRIP like boxers use to develop wrist and forearm muscles. If you're interested in JIU-JITSU and WRESTLING, illustrated charts are all supplied with complete instructions. A SPECIAL 30-DAY TRAINING PROGRAM is fully described and tells you what to do step by step. You even get FOOD FACTS for vitality. MUSCLE GAUGE to test your own strength.

Instructions on how to develop CHEST EXPANSION. HOW TO GET STRONG. What to do for POWERFUL LEGS. In fact, here is everything you could need to give you that strong healthy body you have always wanted. So why wait any longer? Send for the big HERCULES MUSCLE BUILDING TRAINING OUTFIT today.



Posed by
Professional
models



LIMITED OFFER — ACT NOW!

Think of it... practically a complete gymnasium right in your own home. AND THE ENTIRE OUTFIT STILL COSTS ONLY \$3.49! The price is being held down as long as possible... but don't take chances... get your outfit while the price is low. Send no money now. Just fill out the coupon below with your name and address for on a postcard; and we will ship everything out by return mail. When the outfit arrives pay the postman \$3.49 plus postal charges (Outside U. S. 66c extra. Cash with order).

INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, Inc.
39 West 80th Street, Dept. A-77, New York, N. Y.

...IT'S THE
FELLOW WITH THE
ATHLETE'S BUILD
THAT'S POPULAR!

\$3.49
SEND NO
MONEY

**MAIL COUPON TODAY
OR SEND ORDER ON POST CARD**

INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, Inc.
39 West 80th Street, Dept. A-77, New York, N. Y.

Please rush me the complete HERCULES MUSCLE BUILDING TRAINING OUTFIT by return mail. I will pay postman \$3.49 plus postal charges when package arrives.

Name

Address

City State

(If under 18 order must be signed by parent or guardian.)



THE BLACK HOOD

MAN OF MYSTERY



THE OPERA: RIGOLETTO SINGS HIS FINAL ARIA BEFORE THE CURTAIN FALLS... AND A CHILL COURSES THROUGH THE AUDIENCE AT THE WEIRD MENACE IN ITS TONE. FOR IN THE SCENE ENACTED BY THE HUNCHBACK IS A GRIM, STARK REALISM.... AND IN HIS WILD MELODY A PREMONITION OF SWIFT VIOLENT DEATH....



THE AUDIENCE WILDLY APPLAUDS HIS PERFORMANCE...



RIGOLETTO ACKNOWLEDGES THE APPLAUSE.



A VERY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE, WAS IT NOT, MUCH MORE BEAUTIFULLY RENDERED THAN IF THAT FROG, WHO'S PLACE I AM TAKING, HAD SUNG IT.



I DIDN'T KNOW THERE HAD BEEN A CHANGE IN THE CAST.

IS THIS SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A JOKE?



AH, BUT IT IS A JOKE, I ASSURE YOU. A VERY GRIM JOKE PERPETRATED BY ME - THE FLY. A JOKE OF DEATH.



BEFORE THE LAST ECHO OF THE MOCKING-TONES HAVE DIED AWAY, A FIGURE OF ANOTHER RIGOLETTO DROPS FROM ABOVE.



HE'S GONE MAD!

AND THE FLY HAS ANOTHER JEST. THERE IS A VERY BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE AT THE INTERNATIONAL BANK. IF YOU WISH TO WITNESS ANOTHER PERFECT PERFORMANCE, COME AND SEE ME ROB IT TONIGHT AT TWELVE, HA, HA, HA.





POLICE CARS
TEAR ACROSS
THE CITY
STREETS FROM
ALL DIRECTIONS



AT A BROADCASTING STUDIO....



CAN'T YOU SEE
IT BOSS? BROADCASTING
THAT NECKLACE ROB-
BERY WILL BE
THE BIGGEST
RADIO STUNT
EVER. LET
ME DO IT,
WILL YOU?

HMM...
MAYBE
YOU'RE RIGHT!

A BROADCASTING
TRUCK SPEEDS TO
THE INTERNATIONAL
BANK BUILDING.



BANK



STAND
BACK!

KEEP 'EM
BACK. THERE
MAY BE
SHOOTING.

DO YOU
THINK HE'LL
REALLY
DO IT?

IT IS NOW ELEVEN
MINUTES TO TWELVE,
FOLKS, AT THE SCENE
OF WHAT MAY BE THE
MOST SPECTACULAR
ROBBERY IN HISTORY.
I AM GOING TO DE-
SCRIBE IN DETAIL
EVERYTHING THAT
HAPPENS. THE ENTIRE
BUILDING IS SURROUNDED
IT DOESN'T SEEM AS IF
ANYBODY COULD POSSIBLY
GET INTO THE BANK...



N.Y. RADIO
CAST

SUDDENLY... FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE
BANK COMES THE VOICE OF THE FLY...



IN EXACTLY TEN
MINUTES, THE FIVE
MILLION DOLLAR
STODDARD NECKLACE
WILL BE GONE.
WHAT CAN YOU DO
TO STOP ME?

YOU SAPS ' THOUGHT
YOU SEARCHED THE
PLACE. HE'S IN THERE.
GO GET HIM.





HE MUST
BE HERE
SOMEPLACE.



THERE'S
NOBODY
IN THERE,
SARGE.

WHAT!
DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT. I
HEARD
HIM,
DIDN'T
I?



THIS, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN, IS
ABSOLUTELY THE
MOST DARING
CHALLENGE EVER
PLUNG AT THE
POLICE. THE FLY
DEFIES THEM AND
YET THEY ARE
POWERLESS TO
FIND HIM.



DO YOUR
WORST, YOU
BUNGLING
APES. IN
EXACTLY TWO
MINUTES THE
NECKLACE
WILL BE GONE
AND I WITH IT.

WHAT
TH'...



YOU HEARD HIM
THAT TIME, YE SAPS!
NOW GO IN AND GET
HIM OR TURN IN
YOUR SHIELDS.



THE BLACK HOOD
GOES INTO
ACTION.

NOW TO GET
DOWN TO A
WINDOW OF
THE BANK.



I HOPE
HE'S STILL
AROUND.



NECKLACE?
WHAT
NECKLACE?

THE FIVE
MILLION DOL-
LAR STODDARD
NECKLACE!
WHADDYA
DOIN', KIDDIN'
ME?



THERE'S NO FIVE
MILLION DOLLAR
NECKLACE BEING
KEPT IN THIS BANK.



HE'S RIGHT,
MCGINTY.
IT WAS JUST
A GAG.

A GAG!
WHADDYA
MEAN -
A GAG?



THE FLY'S VOICE WAS
COMING FROM THESE
PHONOGRAPH RECORDS.
HE'S PROBABLY MILES
FROM HERE.



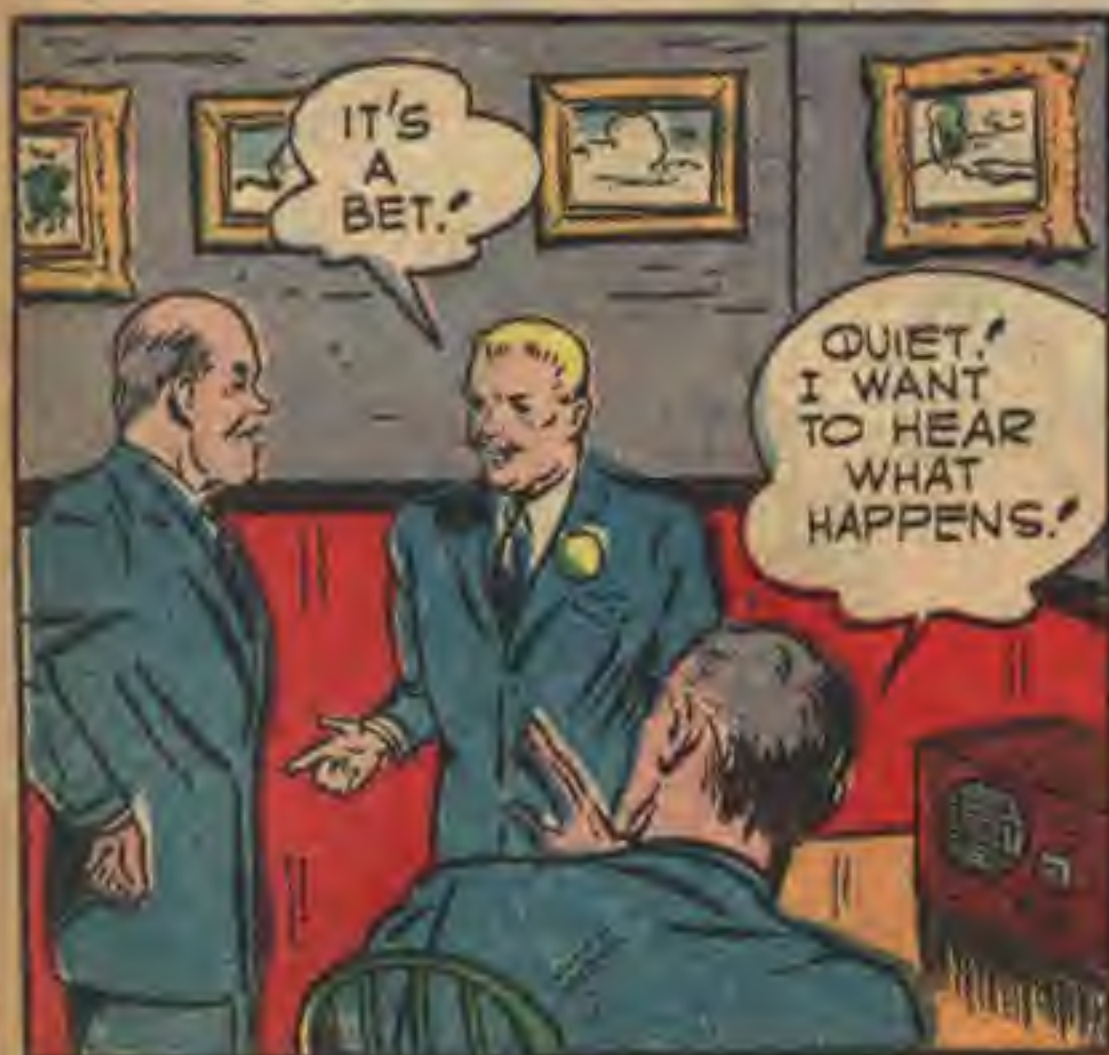
WELL
I'LL BE...
#@!!??

IN THE MEANTIME AT THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF
ART, THE GUARDS LISTEN TO THE RADIO...



THE FLY IS
SOMEWHERE
IN THAT BANK
HURLING IN-
SULTS AT
THE POLICE.
THEY STILL
HAVEN'T
FOUND HIM.

TWO TO ONE
THE FLY GETS
THE NECKLACE.



IT'S
A
BET.

QUIET,
I WANT
TO HEAR
WHAT
HAPPENS.



WHILE THE GUARDS
LISTEN, A WARPED
FIGURE SLINKS
THROUGH THE
GALLERY...

STAND BY, FOLKS.
SOMETHING NEW
SEEMS TO HAVE
HAPPENED...





IN A SUBTERRANEAN
HALL FAR BENEATH
THE OPERA HOUSE...



NOW THE PRICE-
LESS BLUE BOY
AND THE FAWN WILL
HANG ON MY WALLS
WITH THE REST OF
MY BEAUTIFUL
PICTURES.



THIS
IS JUST
THE SPOT
FOR IT.



NOW THE FLY SITS DOWN AT A
GIANT ORGAN... AND HIS TALON-LIKE
HANDS DRAW FORTH SAD, HAUNTING
CHORDS...



ORGAN MUSIC.
IT SEEMS TO BE
COMING THROUGH
THE FLOOR.



THE LAST
TIME I
CHASED HIM,
HE MYSTERIOUS-
LY DISAPPEARED
SOMEWHERE IN
THE OPERA
HOUSE.



WELL, I SEEM TO HAVE
GUESSED RIGHT. THIS
IS THE FLY'S HAUNT...
NOW TO FIND THE
SOURCE
OF THAT
MUSIC.





IN FACT, I SHALL ENTERTAIN YOU WITH MUSIC-BEAUTIFUL MUSIC AND FRAGRANT PERFUMES!



YOU KNOW BY THIS TIME, HOW FOND I AM OF THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN LIFE. NOTE THESE ORGAN-STOPPS, HOOD! THEY RELEASE PERFUME THROUGH THOSE ORGAN PIPES.



SUDDENLY-

OOPS!



A SPECIAL PERFUME FOR YOU, BLACK HOOD-MUSTARD GAS!



THE FLY PLACES THE SEEMINGLY DEAD BODY OF THE BLACK HOOD IN THE LUXURIOUS COFFIN WHICH NORMALLY SERVES AS THE FLY'S BED...



THE TIME HAS COME TO CLOSE THE LID.



SORRY, I'M NOT READY TO BE BURIED YET!





HE'S FAST BUT
HE CAN'T KEEP
IT UP FOREVER!



A WILD PURSUIT FROM BOX TO BOX IN
THE SILENT OPERA HOUSE...



THE FLY MAKES A DARING LEAP AND
CLUTCHES AT A GIANT CHANDELIER.



THIS TIME
YOU SHALL
DIE, MY
FRIEND!



YOU'RE
WRONG
AGAIN!

THE CHANDELIER CORD TEARS!...



AAIEEE!



A STRANGE ENDING FOR AN
EVEN STRANGER CREATURE. AN
ARTIST'S SOUL AND A WARPED
BRAIN. WHAT A PITY!

AND SO, HIS WEIRD
TASK DONE, THE
BLACK HOOD
LEAVES THE SCENE
AND IS SWALLOWED
UP BY THE THICK
DRAPES OF GLOOM.
GLOOM FROM
WHENCE HE
EMERGED AND
WHOSE THICK, IM-
PENETRABLE VEIL
IS A CLOAK FOR
THE DARK KNIGHT
OF JUSTICE!

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A BRAND NEW FULL-LENGTH, 50,000 WORD *BLACK HOOD* NOVEL AWAITS YOU IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF *HOODED DETECTIVE MAGAZINE*. THE ONLY DETECTIVE MAGAZINE FEATURING THE *DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE*. AND WITH THIS MAGAZINE GOES A GUARANTEE. A GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL GET THE SAME BLOOD - PULSING READING PLEASURE, THE SAME HIGH-STANDARD MYSTERY YARN THAT THE *BLACK HOOD* HAS GIVEN YOU ALL ALONG. ONLY TEN CENTS... ON SALE RIGHT NOW!

The WIZARD

WITH **ROY,**
THE **SUPER-BOY**

REGISTERED UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE



WORKING FIENDISHLY IN HIS LABORATORY—
A BLOOD-CRAZY SCIENTIST DELVES
INTO THE SECRETS OF SPACE AND
TIME. WORLD RULE HIS GOAL. UNTIL
THE GHASTLY RESULTS OF HIS MAD
EXPERIMENTS ARE CAST UP
BY THE RIVER. TO
BAFFLE THE MET-
ROPOLITAN
POLICE. AND SET
THE WIZARD ON
HIS TRAIL.

ONCE AGAIN... A WATER-LOGGED CORPSE IS CAST
UP—GRIM REMINDER OF A MAD KILLER AT
LARGE—TO JOIN...



THE BLOOD DRAINED CORPSES WHICH BY
NOW LIE IN ROWS IN THE CITY MORGUE.
ALL VICTIMS BY THE SAME HAND.



THEY WERE ALL KILLED
IN THE SAME MANNER
THEIR BODIES DRAINED
OF BLOOD BEFORE
THEY WERE CAST INTO
THE RIVER!

WORLD MAIL
ANOTHER BODY
REOCCURANCE
AMERICAN GLOBE
DRAINED CORPSE
IN

— UNION NEWS —
POLICE POWERLESS
AS ANOTHER BODY
IS FOUND IN RIVER
AGAIN THE POLICE
TED THE

...ADMIT
IN FINDING THE SOLUTION
TO THE STRANGE MURDERS.

$101 = 100 + 100_{10} \approx 100 = 100_{10}$

BLANE WHITNEY-"THE WIZARD" AND
ROY- THE SUPER-BOY DISCUSS
THE CASE

GOSH
THOSE MURDERS
HAVE THE POLICE
STUMPED WONDER
WHO THE KIL-
LER IS?

I THINK I
KNOW
ROY, AND
I'M
GOING
AFTER HIM!

BUT I'M GOING ALONE THIS
TIME, ROY. AND YOU CAN
WAIT HERE FOR ME.
I DON'T THINK I'LL
BE VERY LONG.

BUT, GEE-THINGS
HAVE BEEN PRETTY
QUIET LATELY-
I'D LIKE
EXCITEMENT.

NO, ROY. I WON'T
NEED YOU. WHY DON'T
YOU LISTEN TO THE
WITCHES' CAULDRON ON
THE RADIO
WHILE
I'M GONE?

OKAY.
LL WAIT.
HUH? SOME
EXCITEMENT.
LISTENING
TO A RADIO
PROGRAM.

WISH HE'D TAKEN ME WITH
HIM THOUGH- OH WELL I
MIGHT AS WELL TUNE IN,
HOPE IT'S A GOOD
PROGRAM

ROV FINDING THE PROGRAM
INTERESTING...LISTENS... AB-
SORBED IN THE TALE- THEN-
THE DOOR OPENS QUIETLY

A SINISTER FIGURE SLIPS IN- THIN ARMS
CREEP TOWARD ROY'S THROAT.

SO IT'S EXCITEMENT YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR, EH?
WELL, YOU'LL GET IT!
MORE THAN YOU
EVER DREAMED!

HEY-WHAT
THE-

REACTING WITH LIGHTNING-SWIFTNES, THE SUPER BOY TWISTS THE SKULKING FIGURE THROUGH THE AIR...



I NEVER DID LIKE SURPRISES, MR... ESPECIALLY, THE KIND THAT SNEAK UP FROM BEHIND!

THUMP!



NOT SO FAST, YOU YOUNG DEVIL!



THWARTED, THE CAPED FIGURE DASHES FROM THE ROOM AS THE BOY, STUNNED, RISES.



THEN... AS ROY RUNS OUT AFTER HIS MYSTERIOUS ATTACKER...

THERE HE GOES... AND HERE I GO!



A TREMENDOUS LEAP AND ROY LANDS ON THE BACK OF THE CAR.



WHO THE HECK IS THIS GUY, ANYWAY? WHY DID HE TRY TO MUSS ME UP? WELL, ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO DO A LITTLE SNOOPING!



THE YOUNG FOOL! I KNEW HE WAS ON THE BACK OF MY CAR ALL ALONG, WELL HIS FOLLOWING ME SUITED MY PLANS PERFECTLY! NOW, I'LL JUST WAIT FOR HIM AND---







(ULP) I. I'LL
TELL -
I'VE SENT
HIM BACK
INTO TIME.
IN MY SPACE
SHIP.



THE ONLY WAY
YOU CAN GET TO
HIM IS TO GO AFTER
HIM IN THIS SPACE
SHIP.

WHICH
IS
EXACTLY
WHAT
I'M GOING
TO DO.



PERFECT! PERFECT! I'VE
RID MYSELF FOREVER OF
THE ONLY TWO WHO
COULD HAVE INTER-
FERED WITH ME.

UP, UP SHOOTS THE TIME CYLINDER
CARRYING THE WIZARD TOWARD
THE MOST BIZARRE ADVENTURE
OF HIS LIFE.



THE SHIP BEARING ROY
LANDS ON THE SOIL OF
A SCORCHED, STRANGE
LAND...



FROM THE HUGE
CASTLES IN THE DISTANCE
EMERGE A HORDE OF
GIANTS.



JARRED INTO CONSCIOUSNESS BY THE
SHOCK OF THE LANDING, ROY OPENS
THE CYLINDER TO FIND -



JUMPIN' JUPITER!
WHERE DID
THESE HORNED
GOONS COME
FROM?

DESPITE HIS STRUGGLES, ROY IS BORNE
OFF BY THE WEIRD, SILENT CREATURES.



LET ME
GO, YOU!



FASTER THAN LIGHT - THE WIZARD STREAKS TO ROY'S RESCUE....



AND RUNS INTO A GIANT ROBOT GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO THE CITY.



GREAT SCOT! WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?

UNDAUNTED THE WIZARD ATTACKS...



I'D BETTER CUT YOU DOWN TO MY SIZE!

BUT THE ANTENNA OF THE FALLING GIANT FLASHES A SIGNAL

QUICKLY - ANOTHER INVADER - SEIZE HIM AND BRING HIM HERE!



YOU'RE THROUGH, MISTER - THAT MUST BE THE WIZARD!

THE WIZARD, EH - HEH, HEH! HE'LL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF... AND SO WILL YOU - RIGHT NOW COME ALONG! RESISTANCE IS USELESS, AS YOU WELL KNOW!



MEANWHILE, AS THE WIZARD STANDS OVER HIS FALLEN OPONENT...



GOOD LORD, MORE OF THESE GIANTS!

REALIZING THAT DELAY MIGHT BE FATAL FOR ROY, THE WIZARD STREAKS UPWARD!



SORRY, BUT I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU OVER-SIZED GENTLEMEN.

AND RUNS INTO MORE TROUBLE!



JUPITER! EVERY PLACE I TURN, MORE OF THESE REFUGEES FROM A NIGHTMARE BOB UP!

SWIFTLY THE WIZARD ATTACKS - AS THE
BRAINLESS GIANTS LUMBER STUPIDLY AT HIM!

WONDER WHAT
MAKES YOU
FELLOWS
TICK?



THOSE ANTENNAE
MUST CONTROL THEM -
OH-OH, MORE OF THEM!



AGAIN THE WIZARD EVADES
THE ROBOTS WITH AN
AMAZING SLIDE! SPYING
THE CONTROL BOARD



I WAS
RIGHT -
RADIO
CONTROL!

... RIPS IT APART - AND
THE GIANTS TOPPLE
THEIR MECHANISMS DEAD!



THAT TAKES
CARE OF
YOU BIG
FELLOWS!

NOW TO GET
TO ROY!



THEN AS THE INSANE RULER IS
ABOUT TO DEAL THE SUPERBOY
THE DEATH-STROKE



THE
WIZARD!

YOU'LL JOIN THE
BOY IN DEATH! THIS
IS MY LAND - MINE!
DO YOU HEAR?



NOT
FOR
LONG,
MISTER!

HMM!
QUITE A
PITCHER
AREN'T
YOU?







Fran FRAZER



AN ENGLISH BATTLESHIP CRUISING BY THE BELEAGUERED CITY OF TOBRUK SIGHTS AN ITALIAN DESTROYER, AND....

IN THE CROW'S NEST OF THE ENGLISH SHIP...

WHAT DO YOU SEE, HAL?

ONE OF THE SURVIVORS STRUGGLING IN THE WATERS, FRAN!



LOOK FOR YOURSELF! SEE HIM?

YES, I SEE HIM- POOR DEVIL!



NOBODY ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE SPOTTED HIM YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM HAL!

ARE YOU NUTS? WHO'S GONNA SAVE ME?



HAL ARGUES WITH FRANK FOR AS LONG AS TEN SECONDS, AND THEN....

WHAT'S THE USE? I CAN'T WIN. HERE GOES.



MAN OVERBOARD, CAPTAIN!

WHAT?



HELP-GLUB

STEADY, MISTER.. I'M COMING

GRACIAS SIGNOR (GASP)... BUT IT'S... A NO USE, I'M... A GONNA DIE ANYHOW. SAVE... A YOURSELF... LISTEN CLOSE. WANT... A TELL YOU SOMETHING.

I'M LISTENING. WHAT IS IT?



THE BATTLE-SHIP STEAMS TOWARD HAL...



HE'S DEAD! AND IF THEY DON'T HAUL ME OUT SOON I'LL JOIN HIM!

YOU NEWS-PAPER REPORTERS ARE QUEER ALL RIGHT. WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR, A FISH STORY?

FUNNY. VERY FUNNY.



... AND SO, CAPTAIN, THE ITALIAN OFFICER, OUT OF GRATITUDE TOLD ME THAT GERMAN SUBMARINES WERE LYING AWAIT IN TOBRUK HARBOR FOR A BIG ENGLISH CONVOY.

NONSENSE. HE WAS JUST TRYING TO TRICK US. A FLY COULDN'T SLIP PAST OUR PATROL. LET ALONE A SUB-MARINE.



HAL, DO YOU THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING TO THAT ITALIAN'S STORY?

I'M NOT SURE ANYMORE. (KACHOO)



YOU KNOW, HAL, THOSE ITALIANS DON'T LIKE THE GERMANS ANY TOO WELL. IT'S JUST POSSIBLE HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. IT'S WORTH LOOKING INTO. WHAT A SWELL STORY IT WOULD MAKE IF IT WERE SO.



THAT NIGHT...

YOU GET ALL THE IDEAS... AND I TAKE ALL THE CHANCES! WHY ARE WE SWIPING THIS DIVING EQUIPMENT?

YOU'LL SOON SEE!

STEALTHILY, FRAN AND HAL LOWER THEMSELVES IN A LIFEBOAT....

ROW FOR THE HARBOR, HAL. IF THERE ARE ANY U-BOATS AROUND, I'LL GIVE THE CAPTAIN PLENTY OF EVIDENCE!

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP YOUR SLEEVE. BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE.

STOP HERE, HAL. NOW HAND ME THAT DIVING EQUIPMENT.

I'M GOING TO SCOUT AROUND ON THE OCEAN FLOOR... AND IF I SEE ANY SUBS, I'M GOING TO SNAP PICS OF THEM.

HOLY CATS! OF ALL THE SCREWBALL STUNTS, THIS COPS THE CAKE! FRAN, BE CAREFUL, WILL YA PLEASE?

GOOD LORD! THE ITALIAN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AFTER ALL!

SUDDENLY, A DREAD CREATURE OF THE SEAS HURTTLES TOWARD FRAN—A SWORDFISH!



FRAN TUGS FRANTICALLY AT THE LIFELINE,...



TROUBLE SURE AS I'M A FOOT HIGH!

AND HAL TUGS UPWARD IN DESPERATE HASTE....



AND NOT A SPLIT-SECOND TOO SOON!



FRAN, IF MY HEART HOLDS OUT ANOTHER YEAR IT WON'T BE YOUR FAULT!

WELL, JUST MAKE SURE YOUR HEART HOLDS OUT LONG ENOUGH TO GET US BACK TO THE SHIP!



IN THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS....

I MUST TRY THIS AMERICAN DELICACY CORN ON THE COB! NIBBLE AT IT LIKE A RABBIT, THE FRAZER GIRL SAID!



CAPTAIN! I'VE GOT IT!

EH... WHAT... (SPLUTTER) GOT WHAT??



PICS OF GERMAN U BOATS HIDDEN IN TOBRUK HARBOR! HERE! SEE?

EGAD! JOVE! IT'S TRUE THEN! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM - RIGHT NOW!



DAILY STRIFE

PICTURE BY FRAN FRAZER
STORY BY HAL DAVIS

REPORTERS SPOIL NAZI PLAN TO DESTROY CONVOY BECAUSE OF THE INGENUITY OF HAL DAVIS AND FRAN FRAZER

KEITH KORNELL

WESTPOINTER

DAWN BREAKS OVER THE MOUNTAINS OF TENNESSEE, LIFTING THE CURTAIN ON A SCENE OF FLAMING HATE. THE JEPSON AND HADWAY CLANS AFTER LIVING SIDE BY SIDE IN AN ARMED TRUCE, RENEW AN ANCIENT FEUD. SMOKEY, FIREBRAND OF THE JEPSON CLAN DRAWS A BEAD ON HIS MOUNTAIN ENEMY BUT AT THAT MOMENT—A BULLET WHISTLES THROUGH HIS HAT ??



LIEUTENANT KEITH KORNELL ON MANEUVERS IS STARTLED BY WILD FLYING BULLETS.

HOLY JOE, THE RED ARMY IS USING LIVE AMMO.



WHO'S SHOOTING AT US, SIR?

IT'S NOT OUR TROOPS—THESE HILL-BILLIES ARE FEUDING AGAIN.



SUMPIN'S UP, PAPPY—THEM HADWAYS HAS STOPPED SHOOTIN'! KEEP YOUR EYE PEELED.





AS THE PUZZLED JEPSONS AWAIT THE NEXT MOVE, WACKY JEPSON EXECUTES A BOLD ATTACK!

LOOK, POP, IT'S SMOKEY!



WACKY ALIENS SMOKEY ONTO HIS SIGHTS AND SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER!

WELL, I'LL BE! THESE GUYS MEAN BUSINESS!



HEY, WOT THE -

NOT SO FAST NEIGHBOR!



TO PAPPY JEPSON, ANY STRANGER IS AN ENEMY, SO HE TAKES AIM AT KORNELL!

HEY, YOU GUYS! STOP THIS GANGWAR!

GEE, SOJERS!



CONSARN YE' SON, DON'T INTERFERE WITH MY SHOOTIN'!

CALM DOWN, PAPPY-THEM'S SOJERS. THEY AIN'T HADWAYS.



PLAYING THE ROLE OF PEACEMAKER, KORNELL ARRANGES A TRUCE.....



BUT THE TRUCE IS SHORT-LIVED!

HEY!

GOTCHA YA'!

DANG YA'!

CUT IT OUT!



HATE TO DO THIS, NEIGHBOR, BUT I LOVE PEACE!



GOSH, GENERAL, YOU SHORE KIN FIGHT!

THAT'S MY PROFESSION - IF YOU MEN WERE IN THE ARMY, YOU'D LEARN DISCIPLINE!



THE ARMY? SAY IF I WUZ A SOJER, WOULD I GET A PURTY GUN LIKE THAT?

OF COURSE!



DANG YE' SMOKY - NO JEPSON KIN OUTDO ME! I WANT TO BE IN THE ARMY, TOO!



SMOKEY AND WACKY FILL OUT ENLISTMENT PAPERS...



THAT NIGHT, TWO UNGAINLY CREATURES FOLLOW THE SOLDIERS TO CAMP...

HEIGH HO, HEIGH HO!

OFF TO CAMP WE GO!



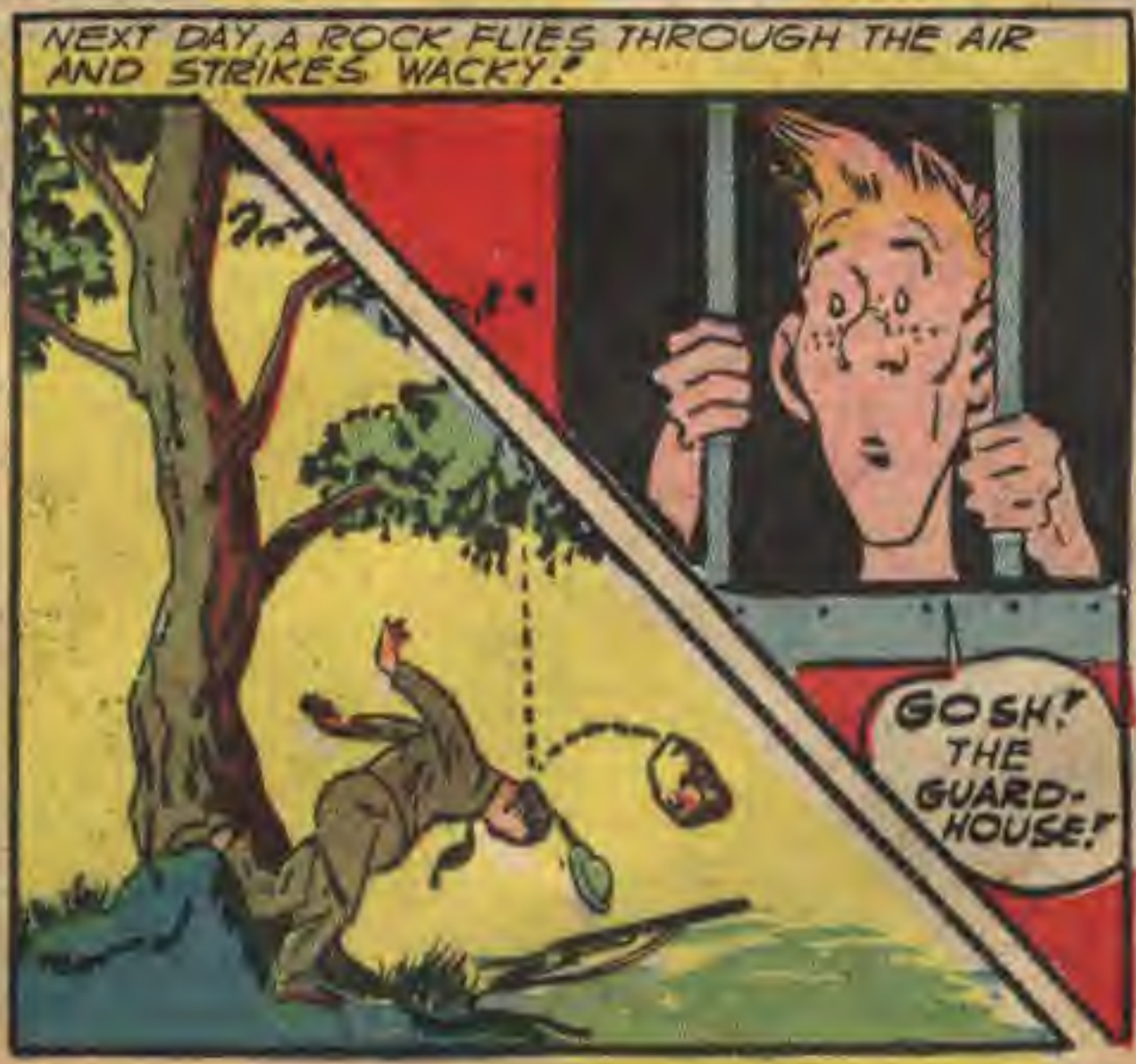
GEE, IF I COULD READ, I'D KNOW WHAT I WUZ WRITIN'!

HOW DO YOU MAKE AN 'X'?



GOSH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE WACKY!

MISSED HIM - DARNIT!



NEXT DAY, A ROCK FLIES THROUGH THE AIR AND STRIKES WACKY!

GOSH! THE GUARD-HOUSE!

THAT EVENING AS KORNEILL CHATS WITH HIS BROTHER OFFICER, LIEUT. CRANE....

YOU SAID IT, CRANE. THOSE HILLBILLIES ARE GREAT CHARACTERS!

YEH, YOU CAN HAVE 'EM.

LISTEN TO THAT RACKET.

SOUNDS LIKE YOUR PETS ARE ON THE PROWL AGAIN!

DANG-YA, SMOKEY, THAT'S UNFAIR FIGHTIN'!

HERE'S A PEACH PIE, WACKY! YOU LIKE PEACH?

ALL THAT WORK FOR NUTHIN'!

OH, OH, HELLO, LIEUTENANT. I WUZ JUST SHOWING WACKY WOT SWELL PIES THE COOK MAKES.

AS THE OFFICERS PART THE BRAWLERS, COLONEL HAWKINS ENTERS!

TENSHIN! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

GOTCHA! MISSED YA!

YOU MEN FROM THE HILLS HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM EVER SINCE YOU ENTERED THE ARMY. I'M RECOMMENDING A DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE!





the FIREFLY

King

INDIA, MOTHER OF MYSTERY, ROMANCE, RICHES AND POVERTY... ALL FOUR PASS IN ARRAY THROUGH THE STREETS OF DELHI. IT'S EMPIRE DAY WHEN PRINCES PARADE WITH PAUPERS.

HARLEY HUDSON CHATS WITH RAM SINGH, AN AGED FAKIR...



BELIEVE ME MY SON, AN EVIL SPELL HOVERS OVER DELHI... IT CARRIES DEATH AND TERROR FOR A MIGHTY SERVANT OF THE KING.

HMM... THAT'S FUNNY, RAM. THAT PROCESSION ENTERING TOWN RIGHT AFTER WHAT YOU SAID.



THAT NIGHT AT
THE VICE-ROY'S
BALL...

ANNOUNCING
THE MAHARAJAH
OF BURTAH.

MAHA-
RAJAH
OF
BURTAH.
WHO IS
HE?

FATHER,
I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU'D
INVITED
ROYALTY
TONIGHT.

NEITHER
DID I
NANCY.
LET'S
GO OVER
AND IN-
TRODUCE
OURSELVES.

GREETINGS
FROM MY
PEOPLE, OH
MIGHTY
MINION OF
THE ENGLISH
KING.

ER...AH...THANK
YOU, AND MY
RESPECTS TO
YOU AND YOUR
TRIBE.

IF I KNEW YOU WERE GOING
TO HONOR ME WITH YOUR
PRESENCE TONIGHT, RAJAH,
I WOULD HAVE... I SAY,
WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION
OVER THERE?

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
JEEVES?

THIS
BLIGHTER
IS TRYING
TO ENTER
WITHOUT
AN INVITATION,
MISS NANCY.

WHY
NANCY AND
I ARE OLD
FRIENDS,
AREN'T
WE?

HMM... LET MR... ER...
THE GENTLEMAN IN,
JEEVES.

YES,
MISS
NANCY.

SEE, FLUNKY!
WHAT DID I
TELL YOU?

AND NOW, JUST
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
BY PRETENDING TO
BE AN OLD FRIEND
OF MINE? I NEVER
SAW YOU BEFORE!

BUT YOU'RE GOING
TO SEE A LOT OF
ME IN THE FUTURE.
HUDSON IS MY
NAME - HARLEY
HUDSON.

SUDDENLY, THE BALL ROOM IS THROWN
INTO INKY, TERRIFYING BLACKNESS.

KALI!
KALI!

THEN, WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON AGAIN...

FATHER! MY FATHER! WHERE IS HE?

WHY, YOU'RE TREMBLING LIKE A LEAF! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

DIDN'T YOU HEAR THAT CRY? IT WAS THE CRY OF THE THUGGI, THE MURDER CULT. THEY'VE COME TO KILL MY FATHER. OH, PLEASE DO SOMETHING.

WHILE IN THE GARDEN, THE VICE-ROY SEARCHES FRANTICALLY FOR THE ONE WHO UTTERED THE CRY...

IT CAME FROM SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.

AARGH

GOOD LORD! I'VE ARRIVED TOO LATE!

THE FIREFLY RUNS UP.

NOT SO FAST, SONNY.

OOOPH!

NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS YOUR SILKEN ROPE BUT IT'LL HOLD YOU FOR A WHILE.

FATHER! FATHER! EEEE! LOOK OVER THERE! HE'S LYING ON THE GROUND!

EASY NOW!

HE.. HE'S DEAD, NANCY!

SHE'S FAINT-ED!

OOO!

THE FIREFLY CARRIES THE UNCONSCIOUS NANCY INTO THE HOUSE,....



THE FIREFLY!

YES, MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN THIS MYSTERY.



IT'S A HORRIBLE CURSE THE THUGS HAVE LEVELED AGAINST OUR FAMILY—IT BEGAN IN THE HILLS WHEN FATHER WAS A YOUNG OFFICER...



"THE THUGS, A BAND OF KILLERS RAN WILD, MURDERING, ROB-BING—FATHER'S TROOP WAS SENT TO QUELL THEM..."



"AFTER A BITTER CAMPAIGN..."



"...THE CULT WAS BROKEN UP—THEIR LEADER SENTENCED TO DEATH..."



THE CURSE OF KALI ON YOU AND YOURS, CAPTAIN RHODES!

CARRY ON, SER-GEANT.



BOOM



WITH A FRIGHTFUL ROAR, HE WAS BLOWN TO BITS! WE'VE ALWAYS LAUGHED AT THE CURSE—UNTIL TONIGHT.

I SEE—YES, IT IS SOMETHING TO FEAR.



FIREFLY'S PROPHETIC WORDS BEAR FRUIT—A HAND STRIKES—THE FIREFLY CRUMPLES!

UMPH!



OW, I WAS OUT LIKE A LIGHT. IF I CAN ONLY GET ON MY FEET.



LADY JANE GONE.



THEY'VE TAKEN HER OUT THAT WINDOW. IT'S STILL AJAR.



THEY MIGHT JUST TRY TO KILL HER THE SAME WAY HER FATHER KILLED THE LEADER OF THE CULT.



AND I REMEMBER SEEING A CANNON JUST OUTSIDE THE GROUNDS WHEN I CAME IN.



YOU ARE BRAVE INFIDEL GIRL - WELL, SO WAS MY FATHER ON THIS SAME CANNON.

NO, NO. HELP HELP



SURPRISED, ARE YOU NOT. RAJAH OF BURTAH, THE THUGGEE PRIEST. I KNEW MY DISGUISE WOULD FOOL YOUR POMPOUS, ROYALTY-LOVING FATHER.



TENSED IN AGONY, LADY JANE AWAITS THE END - THE FULFILLMENT OF THE CURSE OF KALI ...

ON MY SIGNAL - FIRE.



BEFORE THE RAJAH'S
ARM CAN FALL - A HUMAN
BULLET HURTTLES INTO THE
THUG AT THE LANYARD.



GOOD LORD!
THEY'D STOP
AT NOTHING.



QUICK, FIREFLY!
THEY'RE GOING
TO RUSH YOU!

AFTER THE
INFIDEL
DOG - HE
SHALL
BE
NEXT!



SCUM OF THE
HILLS, CHARGE HIM!
KILL HIM!
HE IS ONLY ONE
MAN.

BUT, SACRED
ONE, HE WILL
BLOW US UP
WITH THE
CANNON.



FOLLOW ME! WE WILL
RUSH HIM BEFORE HE
CAN DISCHARGE IT.

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT
YOU'RE BEGGING FOR IT...
HOLD YOUR EARS, NANCY!



OOO! HOW
HORRIBLE!
I CAN'T
LOOK!

IT'S BETTER
YOU DON'T!...
THEY'RE GONE,
AND THEIR CURSE
WITH THEM!... WELL,
INDIA'S A BETTER
PLACE TO LIVE
IN WITHOUT THEIR
KIND.

YOU'RE GOING,
TOO, FIREFLY!
OUT OF MY
LIFE.

YES, I
MUST. INDIA'S
MOON IS
TOO ROMAN-
TIC TO SUIT
ME!

GOOD-
BYE!



The ST. LOUIS KID



NO WAN CAN
LICK BATISSE!
THE STRONGEST
MAN IN ZE
WHOLE
NORTH!

PARBLEU!
BATISSE
IS MAK
BIG NOISE
AGAIN!

OUI!
EES WAN
BAD MAN!

SCENE

A LUMBER
CAMP IN THE
CANADIAN FOREST
INHABITED BY A
CREW OF ROUGH
AND RUGGED
FRENCH CANADIAN
LUMBER JACKS!

NOT FAR AWAY,
THE ST LOUIS
KID AND HIS
PALS, WINDY AND
POP MOLLOY
ARE HUNTING
MOOSE

PSST! POP!
PSST! DON'T
GET SO FAR
AHEAD!

DOGGONE
JIM, WE
AINT SEEN
NO MOOSE
ALL DAY!

SUDDENLY AHEAD



HEY! YOU SHOOT AT BATISSE, HUH? YOU TIRED OF LEEVING?

OH! ER, AH - I'M SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MOOSE!



HELP, JIM! JIM!

SO! BATISSE A MOOSE, EH? I FEEX YOUR FACE SO SHE'S LOOK LIKE WOOD PULP!



PICK ON SOME-ONE YOUR SIZE, YA BIG APE!



I NEVAIR SEE NO MAN FALL ZEE GRAT' BATISSE!

-AND LET THAT BE A LESSON: DON'T FOOL WITH POP MOLLOY!



YOU LICK BATISSE - SO YOU ARE RENE'S FRAN'!

SACRE' BLEU! I FEEX DEES'KEED YOU BAT! 6*!!*

OUI! AND MINE! AND MINE!



THIS IS THE ST. LOUIS KID - WE'RE DOING A LITTLE HUNTING WHILE WE PICK A SPOT TO TRAIN FOR HIS NEXT FIGHT

AHHH! THEN YOU MUST TRAIN HERE! ZEE PLACE PERFECT - WITH YOUR NEW FRIENDS!



SAY, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! THE AIR UP HERE WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU, KID!

MAIS OUI! I HAVE ZEE BOYS FEEX A RING!



THE NEXT DAY

HI YA, RENE'!

BON JOUR MONSIEUR KEED!



STAND BACK BOYS,
AND I'LL SHOW YOU
HOW I USED TO
FELL A PINE IN
TEN STROKES IN
ALASKA-BACK
IN '97!

EH,
FRANCOIS!
PASS ZEE
ROLLS, VOICI
LA BALONEY!



UGH!



BUT AS POP SWINGS
MIGHTILY-- THE AXE-
HEAD FLYS OFF!



OH-OH!
I THINK
I'LL LEAVE
NOW!

OOOH! G*!!
*!!*G
THEES TAM I
KEEL!



GEE! I CAN
RUN RIGHT
ACROSS THE
RIVER ON THESE
LOGS - I CAN
LOSE HIM IN
THE WOODS!



HA! TINK HE CAN
STOP BATISSE ON
LOG JAM! BUT BATISSE
AFRAID OF
NOZZING!

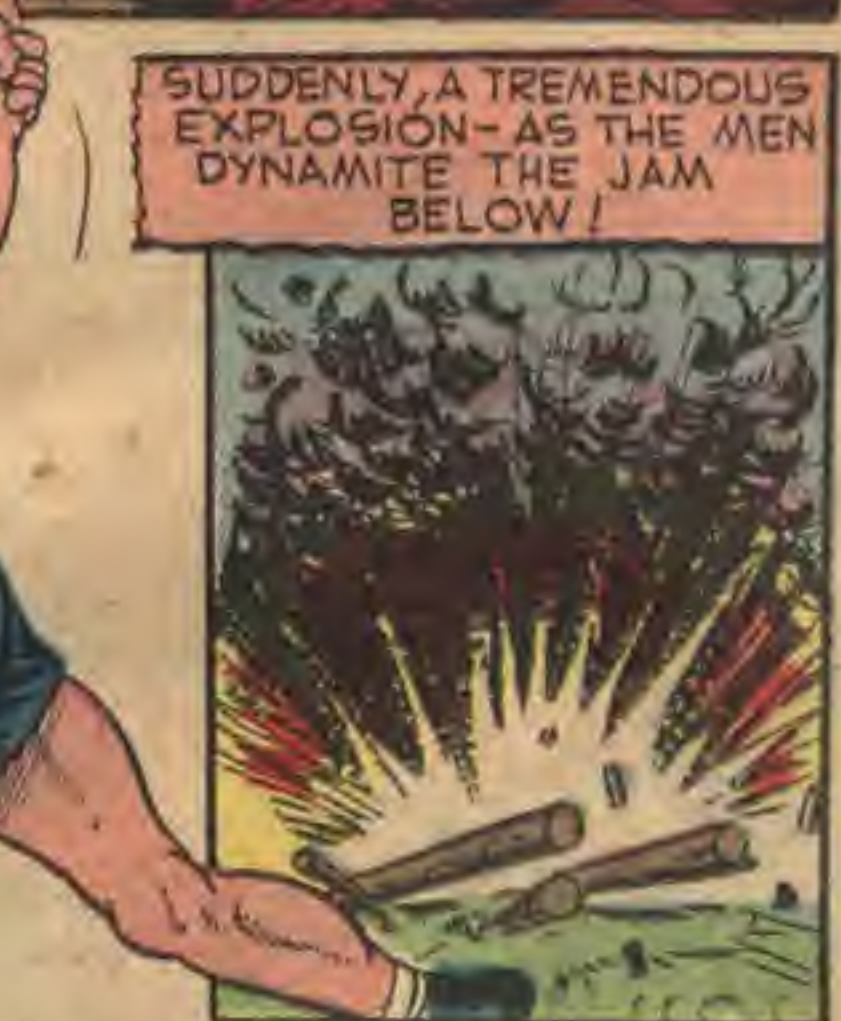


SOUNDS LIKE
POP IS IN TROUBLE
AGAIN, WINDY!
AND DOWN BY
THE RIVER!

HELP!
JIM!
JIM!



A-A-A HE
WON'T DROWN
HE'S TOO
FULL OF
AIR!



YOU TRY TO KEEL
BATISSE FIRST WIZ ZEE
BULLET-ZEN WIZ ZEE
AXE / NOW BATISSE
KEEL YOU! YOU
SKONK!

MON DIEU!
JEEM DON'T GO
ON JAM! ZEE
MEN ZEE DY-
NAMITE TO
LOOSEN IT!

ENRAGED, BATISSE
DRAWS HIS
BOWIE KNIFE!

NOW, MY
FRAN-I
SLICE YOU
UP LIKE ZEE
VENISON
STEW!

SUDDENLY, A TREMENDOUS
EXPLOSION-AS THE MEN
DYNAMITE THE JAM
BELOW!

THE HEAVY LOGS, NOW LOOSE-
GO CATAPULTING DOWN
THE RAPIDS

POP!
WHERE ARE
YOU?

MEANWHILE, BATISSE CLINGS
DESPERATELY TO A ROCK IN THE
DEADLY WATERS!



HERE I AM JIM!
I CAN'T MAKE UP
MY MIND WHICH
LOG TO RIDE!



HALP!



GUESS I PICKED
THE WRONG LOG.

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THEIR FRIENDS' IMPENDING DANGER THE LUMBERJACKS ARE FAR DOWN THE RIVER WORKING MERRILY AT THEIR DAILY TASK.



ALOETTA
GENTIL
ALOETTA

TEEM-
BAIRRR!

CRACK



SUDDENLY!
MON DIEU!
IT IS JEEM AN POP!
THEY WILL BE KILLED



QUICK! QUICK!
DOWN THE RIVIERE,
AND BRING ZEE AXE
AND ROPE!

QUE EST CE QUE C'EST?



NOW THAT THE ST. LOUIS KID IS IN TRIM AGAIN, YOU SURE WON'T WANT TO MISS THE BIG FIGHT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

TOP NOTCH COMICS

SHIELD-WIZARD NO.5

A FOUR-STAR SMASH HIT FROM COAST TO COAST
ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTANDS RIGHT NOW!



AN OWL HOOTS DISMALLY
PERCHED ON ITS GRAVEYARD
ROOST AND FROM OUT
THE MAUSOLEUM
STEPS THE HIDEOUS -
MONOCLED-MONSTER TO
GIVE BATTLE TO THE **SHIELD!**



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, THEY BATTLE, THOSE
TWO INVINCIBLES OF THE AGE - **THE WIZARD**
AND **ROY THE SUPERBOY**



ONCE AGAIN, **DUSTY, THE SPECTACULAR BOY DETECTIVE**, PLAYS A LONE HAND IN A WALLOPING,
THRILL-PACKED YARN!



WINGS JOHNSON OF THE Air Patrol

BECAUSE OF PERSISTENT REPORTS OF A SUBMARINE ASSEMBLY PLANT ON THE NAZI OCCUPIED FRENCH COAST, WINGS JOHNSON, AND HIS PAL HENRY HIGGINS, ARE ON THEIR WAY TO INVESTIGATE WITH A FLIGHT OF VICKERS WELLINGTON BOMBERS.

ENEMY PLANES COM-
ING WARN DER
U-BOAT
BASE.

ENGLISHERS
HEADED YOUR
WAY- START
DER SMOKE
SCREEN.

AS THEY APPROACH THE
FRENCH SHORE, DENSE
CLOUDS OF ARTIFICIAL
FOG BLOT OUT THE
COAST LINE.

THIS MUST BE
THE SPOT, HENRY,
THAT SMOKE-
SCREEN ISN'T
BEING PUT UP
FOR PRACTICE.

MEBBE SO
WINGSIE, BUT
'OW DO WE
SEE 'H' OUR
'H' OBJECTIVE?





I GUESS WE
DONT THIS
TRIP HENRY.

LOOK H'OUT,
WINGSIE.
'ERE COMES
TH' NAZIS!



ATTENTION BOYS! EVERY
MAN FOR HIMSELF - THE
BOMBING RAIDS OFF!
MEET AGAIN ABOVE
DOVER!



HENRY BRINGS HIS GUNS INTO
ACTION!

BLI' ME WINGSIE, THESE
BIRDS ARE OVER 'ANXIOUS -
H'I JUST GOT A SWELL
SHOT AT ONE OF THEM!



WINGS COVERS HIS BUDDIES
RETREAT.....



BUT FINALLY GETS INTO DIF-
FICULTY HIMSELF! HE DIVES!



WINGSIE!
LOOK H'OUT!
YOU'LL CRASH
INTO THAT
GRAVE YARD!



DONT WORRY, HENRY.
I KNOW WHAT I'M
DOING.



GLUMLY WINGS LEAVES

HECK-BY THE TIME WE GET PROOF A FEW MORE SUBS WILL BE IN COMMISSION.

WHAT GOES H'ON, WINGSIE.



LISTEN, HENRY, GET THAT BIG FISH HOOK OF YOURS, THEN MEET ME OVER AT THE "BATTLE" HANGAR. I'VE GOT AN IDEA.



IN A FEW MINUTES THEY TAKE OFF.

H'I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' H'ON, WINGSIE.

YOU WILL!



ONCE MORE WINGS JOHNSON APPROACHES THE FRENCH SHORE.

ANUDDER BRITISHER. WARN THEM AT THE FACTORY!

YESSIR!



GET THAT HOOK OVERBOARD HURRY. WE'RE GOING TO DO SOME FISHING.

RIGHTO, OLE TOP.



WINGS SWOOPS LOW OVER THE CEMETERY.....



AND THE HOOK RIPS THROUGH A GIANT NET-REVEALING THE SUB BASE.



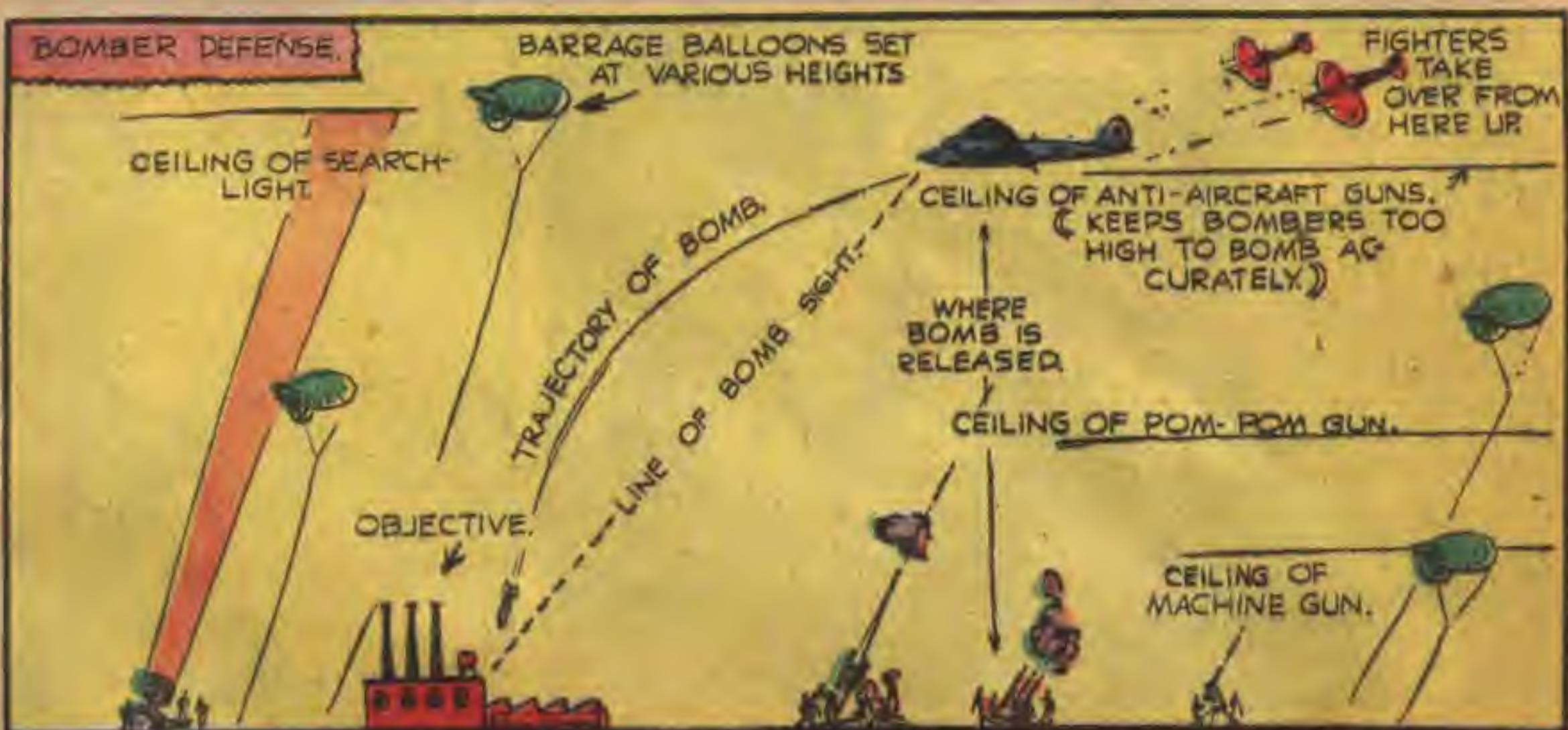
VE IS DISCOVERED!

HELP!

LET ME OUT OF HERE!







BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD

King



IN THE EARLY MORNING A HUGE NEW BOMBER LEAVES THE HENDIX AIR-FIELD, STARTING THE FIRST LEG OF ITS FLIGHT TO BRITAIN. SOARING HIGH, IT CIRCLES THE FIELD ONCE AND THEN SUDDENLY IT PLUMMETS ROCKET-LIKE TO EARTH, OUT OF CONTROL.

LATER THAT DAY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

IT'S TRUE I TELL YOU CAPTAIN. I'M CERTAIN OF IT!



WELL NOW I UNDERSTAND. JUST DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING YOU GO ON HOME AND LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US.



JUST THEN, WALT WHITNEY, PROM-
INENT BROADWAY COLUMNIST,
ENTERS THE ROOM!

REMEMBER NOW, DON'T
BREATHE A WORD OF THIS
TO ANYONE ELSE!

I WON'T CAP-
TAIN

SAY WHAT IS ALL THIS? YOU BOYS
KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO KEEP
SECRETS FROM ME!

YOU'RE RIGHT WHITNEY, I GUESS
THERE'S NO USE IN TRYING TO
KEEP ANYTHING FROM YOU, I'M
GOING TO GIVE YOU A REAL HOT
TIP. GO AFTER THAT GIRL SHE'S
GOT SOME INSIDE INFORMATION
THAT YOU'LL BE MIGHTY
INTERESTED IN!

WHITNEY RUSHES
OUT AFTER
THE GIRL.

HO, HO, WAIT'LL THAT SCREW
BALL STARTS HIM ON HER
MERRY GO ROUND.

CONTINUING ON HER WAY HOME THE
GIRL PASSES UNDER A PIANO BEING
LIFTED TO A TOP FLOOR APARTMENT.

SUDDENLY

HOLY SMOKES!
THAT PIANOS
LOOSE! SHE'LL
BE KILLED!

THE NEXT INSTANT A SWIRL
OF WIND AND A PUFF OF
EERIE WHITE SMOKE ---
BOB PHANTOM

A DESPERATE LEAP
AND THE GIRL IS
CARRIED TO SAFE-
TY.

IT CAME FROM THAT THIRD FLOOR WINDOW.



SHE'LL BE ALRIGHT, THERE FOR A FEW MINUTES! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT



THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE!



BOB PHANTOM ENTERS THE APARTMENT AND

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!

OW!



I WAS WAITING FOR MY PARTNER TO COME BACK WHEN SOME GUY SNEAKED UP FROM BEHIND, AND SLUGGED ME!



I SEE!

HE SEEMED TO BE TELLING THE TRUTH. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO GET RID OF THAT GIRL!



ONCE MORE ASSUMING THE ROLE OF WALT WHITNEY, HE RETURNS TO THE DAZED GIRL

YOU REALLY HAD A CLOSE CALL. DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU OUT OF THE WAY!

THEN, TOO I NOTICED A QUEER CHANGE IN MR. HENDIX. HE DIDN'T QUITE SEEM LIKE HIMSELF. HE APPEARED TO BE A STRANGER. WHEN HE TRIED TO DRAW CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION WHICH HE WAS SUPPOSED TO KNOW, FROM ME, MY SUSPICIONS WERE CONFIRMED.

I'M CONVINCED THAT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MR. HENDIX, AND A CLEVER IMPOSTOR IS IN HIS PLACE. I'M CERTAIN THAT HE'S SABOTAGING OUR BOMBERS! HE MUST KNOW I SUSPECT HIM!

YES! YOU SEE I'M THE SECRETARY FOR MR. HENDIX, THE AIRPLANE MANUFACTURER. RECENTLY MANY OF OUR NEW PLANES HAVE BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY DESTROYED!



SAY, YOU'VE REALLY STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING. LET'S GO DOWN TO YOUR PLANT AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND





THAT'S THE NEWEST SHIP IT'S DUE TO LEAVE SOMETIME TO-DAY



I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG IN HERE MAYBE THE TROUBLE IS IN THE ENGINE



SUDDENLY
SO YOU'RE INTERESTED IN MY PLANE'S
ARE YOU?



GET MOVING AND I'LL SHOW YOU THE REST OF FACTORY!



IN A SECLUDED PART OF THE PLANT WHITNEY AND THE GIRL ARE TIED TO HUGE DRILLS

HURRY BOYS WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THAT PLANE IT'S DUE TO LEAVE SOON START THOSE DRILLS SLOWLY IT'LL GIVE THEM TIME TO THINK BEFORE THEY DIE!

SO YOU COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE SHIP, EH! DO YOU THINK I'M A FOOL WHO WOULD STOOP TO ORDINARY METHODS? I'M TOO CLEVER FOR THAT, I'LL WAIT UNTIL THE PLANE IS READY TO LEAVE, AND **THEN** IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER TO SLIP A VIAL OF DEADLY GAS INTO THE UTILITY RACK THE ROLLING OF THE SHIP DOES THE REST.



IF I CAN ONLY CATCH THESE CORDS IN THOSE GEAR TEETH THEY MIGHT BE CUT!



BUCK UP, IF THIS WORKS I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE BEFORE THOSE DRILLS ARE AN INCH CLOSER



IT WORKED MY HANDS ARE FREE!

YOU GO CALL
THE POLICE I'LL
TRY TO GET
TO THAT PLANE
BEFORE IT
LEAVES!

AS WALT WHITNEY REACHES THE FIELD,
THE BOMBER HAS ALREADY STARTED
DOWN THE RUNWAY FOR ITS TAKE OFF

THE PLANE STARTS TO RISE,
THE VIAL OF GAS ROLLS
SLOWLY TO THE EDGE
OF THE RACK!

SUDDENLY AS IT IS ABOUT TO HIT
THE GROUND, OUT OF A PUFF OF
SERIE WHITE SMOKE COMES THE
HAND OF BOB PHANTOM TO CATCH
IT IN MID-AIR

MEANWHILE

HURRY
DOWN, CAPTAIN,
I'LL TRY TO DE-
TAIN THEM UN-
TIL YOU GET
HERE!

SHE RUSHES TO THE OFFICE, WHERE
THE TRIO IS SITTING AND----

WHAT!

WHO'S
THAT!

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS.
NOBODY WILL TAKE YOUR WORD
AGAINST MINE!

WE'LL SEE A-
BOUT THAT YOU
IMPOSTORS!

WHAT'S
GOIN' ON
HERE!

I'M GLAD YOU GOT HERE, OFFIC-
ER, ARREST THAT GIRL. SHE'S THE
ONE THAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE WRECKING OF MY PLANES
SHE IS TRYING TO MAKE IT AP-
PEAR AS THOUGH I'M TO BLAME

NO! I TELL YOU IT'S HE WHO'S DOING IT. HE'S NOT MR. HENDIX. HE'S A FRAUD.

WHY THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS SHE'S MAD.

I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING PHONY ABOUT YOU WHEN YOU WERE DOWN AT HEAD-QUARTERS THIS MORNING.

JUST THEN BOB PHANTOM RUSHES INTO THE ROOM!

COME ON! ALONG SISTER. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

NO! NO!

OH! SO YOU'RE MIXED UP IN THIS, TOO? THIS IS ONE TIME YOU WON'T GET AWAY!

WAIT A MINUTE! IF THIS GUY CLAIMS HE IS HENDIX WHY DON'T YOU CHECK HIS FINGER PRINTS, THAT SHOULD SETTLE THINGS.

THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA, MR. HENDIX. IT WON'T TAKE UP MUCH TIME AND IT WILL SATISFY EVEN THIS PAIR OF HOODLUMS!

WHY! I WON'T HEAR OF SUCH A THING!

REALIZING THAT HE IS ABOUT TO BE EXPOSED, HENDIX MAKES A DASH FOR THE DOOR.

HOWEVER

WHAT'S THE MATTER? AFRAID TO DIRTY YOUR FINGERS ON THE INK PAD?

HERE Y'ARE CAPTAIN, LISTEN TO THIS BIRD'S SONG!

ALRIGHT!!

THE GAME IS UP, ANYWAY! I'M NOT HENDIX. WE GOT RID OF HIM MONTHS AGO AND I TOOK HIS PLACE. WE LOOKED SO MUCH ALIKE, NO ONE WAS WISE UNTIL THAT SECRETARY STARTED SNOOPING AROUND!

ONCE MORE THERE IS A SWIRL OF WIND AND A PUFF OF SMOKE AND BOB PHANTOM DISAPPEARS.

NEXT DAY

AW, GO PEDDLE YOUR PAPERS!

TRIED TO PULL A FAST ONE ON ME EH BOYS! WE'LL READ MY COLUMN AND SEE WHAT YOUR PHONY TIP TURNED INTO!

IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE!
THE HANGMAN
IN A BRAND NEW COMIC BOOK OF HIS
OWN !!!

THANKS FOR ALL THOSE LETTERS ASKING FOR ME, TO APPEAR IN A BOOK OF MY OWN, I'M BRINGING ALONG WITH ME THOSE TWO YOUNG BUDDIES, DUSTY THE SPECTACULAR BOY DETECTIVE, ROY THE SUPERBOY !! WE'LL DO OUR DARNDDEST TO GIVE YOU THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE !!!



YIPEE !! HERE I COME HANGMAN! HOW ABOUT YOU, ROY !!

YOU BETCHA DUSTY !! WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD WE'RE BUDDIES FROM NOW ON,

BOY BUDDIES!!!
ROY THE SUPERBOY, APPEAR

DUSTY THE SPECTACULAR BOY DETECTIVE, AND IN THE "HANGMAN COMICS, LOOK FOR IT !!!!

KARDAK

THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN



MASTERS
CRASHES A STATU-
ETTE ONTO KANE'S
HEAD.



IN THE HOME OF SILAS
MASTERS, WEALTHY
MANUFACTURER, A DRA-
MA OF GREED AND IN-
JUSTICE REACHES ITS
CLIMAX. JOHN KANE,
POVERTY-STRICKEN IN-
VENTOR OF THE PLANE
WHICH MADE MASTERS
RICH, SUDDENLY EXCLAIMS
"THIEF, CROOK" AND
LUNGES AT MASTERS."



AT THAT
MOMENT,
KARDAK PAS-
SING THE MASTER'S
HOME FINDS A TERRI-
FIED GIRL AT THE
GATE...

WHAT
IS IT, MY
DEAR?
IT'S MY FATHER.
HE'S WITH MR.
MASTERS AND I
JUST HEARD SCREAMS.



paul reinman

KARDAK GRASPS THE IRON BARS—INTONES A MAGIC PHRASE—AND THEY BECOME RUBBER IN HIS HANDS



NOW WE'LL ENTER.



GIVE ME THE POLICE—QUICK! ER—SAY, WHO ARE YOU?

MERELY A CURIOUS OBSERVER

DAD, WHAT HAS THIS BEAST DONE TO YOU?

HE STILL REFUSES TO GIVE ME MY SHARE OF THE MONEY!



HE STOLE THE PLANS FROM ME AND NOW I'M PENNILESS!

HE'S A LIAR! THE PLANE IS MY INVENTION, AND SO IS THE MONEY!



YOUR GREED IS YOUR CURSE, MASTERS. I'LL LIVE TO SEE YOU SUFFER, AS I'VE SUFFERED!

GET OUT I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! TAKE HIM AWAY, OFFICER!

THIS IS NO AFFAIR OF YOURS—NOW GET OUT!

VERY WELL, PERHAPS I'VE BEEN TOO BOLD. COME, MY DEAR.



AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO HELP US.

BE PATIENT. I'M CALLING HERE AGAIN—SOON!



THOSE FOOLS, DO THEY THINK I'LL PART WITH MY GOLD?





LATER MASTERS LOOKS IN HIS MIRROR AND SEES—

WHO—WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



WHY DO YOU WANT TO ROB THAT POOR INVENTOR? YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY AS IT IS.

NONSENSE, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS HAVING ENOUGH MONEY.



SO—GOLD IS YOUR GOD—YOUR CREED—LONG AGO, ANOTHER MAN LIVED AND THOUGHT AS YOU. HIS NAME WAS MIDAS. REMEMBER?



GET OUT—OR I'LL THROW YOU OUT.

YOU WANT GOLD? YOU SHALL HAVE IT.



GREAT HEAVENS! THIS STATUE! IT'S TURNED TO GOLD!

WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED, WASN'T IT?



INSANE WITH GREED, MASTERS RUSHES TO THE DOOR. AGAIN KARDAK ACTS...

I'LL TAKE THIS TO MY VAULT—IT'S A MIRACLE—A GOLDEN MIRACLE.



THE KNOB—IT'S GOLD TOO!



MY FONDEST DREAMS COME TRUE—ALL I TOUCH TURNS TO GOLD!



LOOK! GOLD! EVERY-
THING I TOUCH TURNS
TO GOLD! I'M A
MODERN MIDAS!



MY APOLOGIES, MR. KARDAK.
YOU'VE GIVEN ME A GIFT
UNRIVALLED IN HISTORY.
WON'T YOU HAVE
BREAKFAST WITH ME?



WHA..
(GULP) MY POTATOES!
THEY'VE TURNED
TO GOLD!

THAT
SHOULD
PLEASE
YOU!



WITH GREED AND
JOY, MASTERS SCOOPS
UP THE GOLDEN CHIPS...



DO YOU
SEE ANY
GOLDEN
POTATOES,
JAMES?

NO!... THE
OLD COOT
MUST BE
NUTS!

GOLD!
PRECIOUS
GOLD!



COMPLETELY TAKEN
IN BY KARDAK'S
MAGIC, MASTERS
RUNS TO TELL HIS
DAUGHTER OF HIS
GOOD FORTUNE...

BETTY!
OH, BETTY!



MORNING, DAD! I WAS
JUST GOING FOR MY
MORNING CANTER.
WHAT IS IT?



AT HIS TOUCH, BOTH GIRL
AND HORSE BECOME
GOLDEN STATUES!

NO, NO - NOT MY
DAUGHTER! NOT
HER!

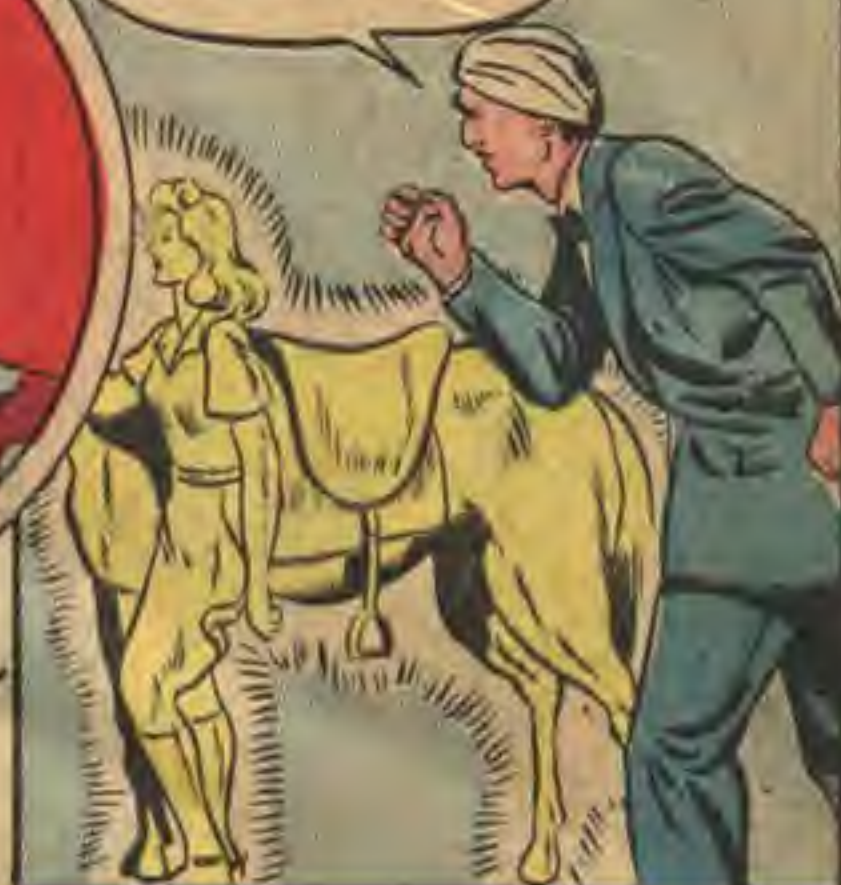
MY DAUGHTER, YOU'VE TURNED HER INTO A GOLD STATUE!

I DIDN'T! YOU DID! YOU WANTED THE TOUCH OF GOLD, DIDN'T YOU?



I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD! RID ME OF THE CURSE, KARDAK! I'LL DO ANYTHING! MY GREED FOR WEALTH HAS CAUSED ME ENOUGH GRIEF!

I THINK YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON AT THAT,



MY DAUGHTER! YOU'RE FLESH AND BLOOD AGAIN - NOT COLD, HARD GOLD!

DADDY, WHY ALL THE EXCITEMENT? ME - A GOLDEN STATUE? ARE YOU I'LL?



WHAT A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE! I'M GLAD IT'S ENDED! LIKE MIDAS, I'VE BEEN A BLIND FOOL!

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, DADDY!



ER... I DON'T THINK YOU WANT TO CARRY ALL THAT JUNK AROUND ANYMORE, MR. MASTERS. HA, HA, HA!

THEY'RE NOT GOLD AFTER ALL!



YOU'VE TAUGHT ME A LESSON, KARDAK! FROM NOW ON, I'LL SHARE MY GOLD.

FINE, AND THE FIRST ONE YOU CAN SHARE IT WITH IS KANE, THE INVENTOR! I'LL BRING HIM HERE NOW!



I'LL BACK YOU TO THE LIMIT ON THIS INVENTION, KANE!

THANK YOU, MASTERS. WE'LL BE PARTNERS IN THIS THING.



THE END

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